Term 4 Week 5 Thursday 06 November 2014

P&C Meeting

Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th November at 6.30pm in the Admin Building. All interested parents are invited to attend. Also the Merrimac Outside School Hours Care meeting will be held on the same evening commencing at 5.45pm in the MPC.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is next Tuesday 11 November. Our school will commemorate the significance of Remembrance Day at 11.00am by observing a Minute of Silence.

School Audits

As part of our four year school review, Merrimac State School will have 3 Education Queensland Principals come in on Monday 11 November and Tuesday 12 November to audit all our teaching and learning practices and our discipline processes. The names of the teaching and learning auditors are Mrs Bert Barbe and Mrs Bronwyn Braithwaite. The Discipline auditor is Mr Stewart Jones. During their two days at the school, the auditors will be looking at school learning programs and will be talking to school leaders, teachers, teacher aides, the P&C President, parents and students. On Tuesday afternoon, the auditors will provide an overview of their findings at a staff meeting and give recommendations for school improvement. These recommendations will then become part of our Quadrennial School Review (QSR) and give direction for the school over the next four years. Results of the audit will be shared with the school community after the audit is complete.

Quadrennial School Review (QSR)

Every four years, schools are required to undertake a Quadrennial School Review. The review is to determine how well the school has done over the last four years and to make recommendations for the next Four Year Plan from 2015 to 2018. Results from our QSR will be shared with the school community as will our next Four Year Plan. As part of our school’s QSR we would like to have input from our parents in a range of areas. A QSR Parent Survey has been developed and is available online. Parents are asked to complete the online survey before Friday 14 November. Your input and suggestions are strongly encouraged and we are hoping for a very good response to this survey. The link is attached to your accompanying email.

School-wide Positive Behaviour Support

Our mascots, Ralph and Rosie have made an appearance at our recent Prep Orientation Day to tell new parents about our school rules, Safe, Respectful Learner. Students have been having their weekly behaviour lesson in class. This week’s lesson was ‘Ways to speak respectfully to others’. Next week, we will be reinforcing ‘How to move safely in our covered areas’. Ralph and Rosie come every week to reinforce these messages on Parade. For next year, the students want to introduce a new positive class reward. Every week one class will nominate another class for excellent safe, respectful learning. The nominated class will accept a class certificate on parade and be able to keep a large replica of Ralph and Rosie in their class for the week (one for junior and one for senior classes). The new award will be launched at the first parade next year.

Merrimac-Katsuragi Sister School Exchange

Merrimac State School has been involved in a sister school arrangement with Katsuragi Elementary School in Japan since 2001. We have successfully hosted students from Katsuragi six times since 2004. Katsuragi has hosted us on alternate years and 2015 marks our seventh visit. Katsuragi Elementary School is located a short drive through the mountain from the City of Kobe. The 2015 Japan visit is proposed for 17-26 September, pending Education Queensland approval. For parents of students who are interested in going on the exchange, Merrimac State School will be holding an information meeting at 3.15-4.00pm on Tuesday 18 November in the Japanese teaching room. Students will bring home a pamphlet this week, explaining some of the details that will be discussed at the meeting. Expressions of interest will close on Friday 21 November. The “Nihon Keiken” program will be open to all students who will be enrolled at Merrimac State School in 2015 in Years 5 and 6. Expressions of interest will be reviewed in relation to a selection criteria (language studies, leadership, initiative, social and emotional readiness, independence, behaviour and effort in school).

Special Education Program

Students in our Special Education Program have been busy in class with their school work. They have also been involved in some terrific specialised programs to cater for the needs of our children. Students have been attending weekly gymnasics lessons to develop gross motor control. Senior students have been shopping and cooking to promote life skills. A multi-aged group tends the school garden to grow produce to supplement the cooking program. The speech and occupational therapists have developed group therapy programs for identified students. These include what the children call ‘Fun Friday’ - the sensory program run for 20 students on a Friday afternoon. Teachers and teacher aides from the Special Education Program also provide significant in class support for those students identified with special needs.

Year One Protective Behaviours Program

‘Act for Kids’ trained educators will be coming to support Year 1 teachers in running a five week protective behaviours program called, ‘Be Safe With Emmy’. This program educates young children in how to identify their feelings, identify safe and unsafe situations, decide who are their safe people and talk about safe and unsafe secrets. The program is delivered in a child friendly way with Emmy, a puppet character giving children most of the information. There are activity sheets that parents can go through with their child to reinforce the ‘Keeping Safe’ messages. For further information go to: www.actforkids.com.au

Human Relationships Education (HRE)

Last year our school used Family Planning Queensland to run our school’s HRE Sexuality Program. A decision has been made to use them again this year. The HRE program involves Years 5, 6 and 7 only. The P&C and school will be jointly funding the program so there will be no cost to the students. The content of the program will be very similar to previous years. A number of schools are using Family Planning Queensland to present their school’s HRE. The Family Planning HRE student sessions will be held in the week beginning Monday 17 November. A timetable for each of the classes will be developed and published in a future newsletter.
Prep Experience Days
Term Four is an exciting time for our Preparatory Program. Merrimac State School invites new Prep students for 2015 to attend a two hour Prep Experience morning. The children will be engaged in Early Learning activities relating to Prep. This is to reassure them that school can be an enjoyable place where they can learn safely. They will also get to know some of the areas such as the classroom, playground and toilets. Parents can either drop off or stay for the morning.

Ms Hall will be holding a parent information session in the Performing Arts Centre for interested parents from 9.30am-10.45am. This will allow you to settle your child into the room and be back before the end of the session. Enrolled students were provided with a letter indicating their date for experience morning at the orientation session attended by their parents. If you did not attend please see the office for your enrolment pack.

Carols
It’s that time of year again, the season of giving and Christmas celebrations. The annual Merrimac Christmas Carols event is fast approaching and scheduled for the evening of Monday 8th December. Recently a letter about Kmart Wishing Tree donations was sent home and next week another letter will be sent home appealing to your generosity for Hamper donations. We ask that families begin to consider donating a small gift for a child, adult or grandparent to assist with making Christmas a little brighter. All labelled and unwrapped gift donations, which will be given to the Salvation Army, can be delivered to 4C or 4D along with hamper items which will be raffled on the night. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in making Christmas a little brighter for someone less fortunate.

Parental Educational Requests - 2015
The process for allocating children to classes is a complex process where class teachers, support teachers and administration use their professional judgement to consider the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and how these needs can be best met the following year. Determining the best possible educational environment for all children is a high priority. If you are aware of specific educational needs for your child, please list these concerns on the form available from the school office. This form is not intended for specific teacher requests but for genuine educational issues.

Teacher class allocations have not been finalised at this stage and will not be finalised till the end of term. Parent requests will be considered in light of providing the best possible educational placement for all students. Because of a number of factors, it is not always possible to meet all parent requests. Multiple requests concerning the same child should not be made and cannot be catered for.

Forms are available from the school office and must be submitted to the office by 3pm Friday 14 November. After this date, class requests will only be considered if operationally convenient to the school.

Booklists
Booklists for all students in Years P-5 have been sent out this week. Orders can be placed with the Bookshop any Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8.00am – 9.00am.

Parent Information Booklets
New Parent Information Booklets for 2015 have been prepared. These are provided to all new enrolments and beginning Prep families. Additional copies are available from the school office for anyone who may be interested in obtaining a copy. The Parent Information Booklet is also available on the school’s website.

Sports/Musical Photos
Samples photos are available for viewing in the school Library. Ordering is available online at www.silverrose.com.au/schools

FINANCE NEWS
The finance window operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.00am – 9.30am. These are the only times money is accepted. Parents should ensure payment is made by due dates as final numbers are often required and children will miss out on an event if they have not paid by the due date. Pay early and avoid disappointment. We are currently accepting payments for:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Seaworld Entry</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>14 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6/7</td>
<td>Seaworld Bus</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>21 Nov</td>
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TUCKSHOP NEWS
Roster for week commencing 10 November:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 10/11</td>
<td>Mayumi</td>
<td>Meal Deal 13 Nov $5.00*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 11/11</td>
<td>Yoko M</td>
<td>• Chicken chippie Snack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 12/11</td>
<td>Naoko, Yoko</td>
<td>Wrap w lettuce &amp; lite mayo</td>
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<td>Thur 13/11</td>
<td>Maria S, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Mini muffin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14/11</td>
<td>Yoko H, Mayumi</td>
<td>• Paddlepop Funny</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bottled Water</td>
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*Add 50c extra to upgrade to Springwater or flavoured milk

Thank you to our volunteers this week. Your help is very much appreciated. Our new product Island Way Sorbet is selling really well, the flavours are all natural and more importantly DELISH! These are just $2.50 each and are perfect for this weather. Have a great week all.

~ Denise ~

Tuckshop Day
Tuckshop Day is tomorrow. Let’s give a big thanks to our tuckshop convenor, Mrs Denise McKay and all her wonderful volunteers for their hard work in providing our hungry students with healthy, tasty food.
Our tuckshop is always looking for volunteers to help out so if you've got an hour or two free, please contact Denise through the Tuckshop. Additional information on Tuckshop Day is available from the Tuckshop Day website at http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/tuckshop/index.html

**INTERSCHOOL SPORTS DRAW 7 NOVEMBER**

**Boys Touch at Mallawa Drive, Palm Beach**
- 5A v Worongary on Field 1 @ 1.35pm
- 5B v Elanora Green on Field 1 @ 12.50pm
- 6A v Robina on Field 7 @ 1.35pm
- 6B v Caningeraba on Field 6 @ 12.50pm
- 7B v Hillcrest on Field 11 @ 12.50pm

**Basketball at St Andrews Lutheran College, Tallebudgera**
- 6B v BYE
- 7B v Robina on Court 2 @ 1.15pm

**Girls Touch at Alan Nielsen Park, Nielsens Rd, Carrara**
- 5A v Caningeraba on Field 2 @ 1.30pm
- 6A v Burleigh on Field 7 @ 12.45pm
- 6B v Mudgeeraba on Field 11 @ 1.30pm
- 7A v Mudgeeraba on Field 6 @ 1.30pm
- 7B v Elanora on Field 2 @ 12.45pm

**Softball at Coplicks Fields, Tallebudgera**
- Team A v Caningeraba on Field 1 @ 12.50pm
- Team B v Hillcrest on Field 3 @ 12.50pm

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Magic of Music Concert**
The Merrimac State School Magic of Music Concert will be held on Wednesday 19th November in the Merrimac State School PAC Hall from 6pm until 8pm. All friends and family welcome.

**Entry Fee: Gold Coin Donation**
Tea and Coffee will be served for parents from 5.15pm - 5.55pm

**Music Count Us In**
Congratulations Senior Choir students. There was great TV coverage of the event from both Channel 7 and Channel 9. Yeh for Music Education, it will live on!

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

**APPLICATIONS FOR 2015 BUS PASSES ARE DUE NOW**

**ALL NEW PASSENGERS FOR 2015**
To ensure timely distribution of bus passes in the New Year, please submit your application before the end of November 2014.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXISTING BUS PASS HOLDERS**
At the end of each school year, please ensure that the current pass is retained to be used in the new school year until the new pass is issued.

Students with an existing bus pass need only re-apply for a 2015 bus pass if your child is:
- moving from Primary to Secondary School
- repeating a grade
- changing their home address or school

**ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FORMS**

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO**
Surfside Buslines
PO Box 3036
ROBINA
Q 4230
Email schools@tagroup.net.au or Fax 5571 6556

Applications will be processed over the Christmas school holidays. Once applications are approved, bus passes are sent to school for collection. Please allow 10-15 working days from the start of Term One 2015.

**Prior to Government approval of bus travel assistance, all students can travel by bus to school using a TransLink go card.**

**REMEMBER**
A valid bus pass must be produced TO THE DRIVER or the relevant fare paid via cash or go card. Information on fares, go cards, zones and bus timetables is available from TransLink http://translink.com.au/ or phone 13 12 30.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Robina State High School
Year 7 Orientation Day for 2015
9.30am - 1.00pm
Friday 31 October 2014
Prior to this day all families regardless of their primary school must complete and submit Robina State High School enrolment forms. When enrolment forms are submitted we will book your individual enrolment interview. Enrolment packs are available on the Robina SHS website or from reception. For more information contact our Head of Junior Secondary - Mr Ben Weeks bweek12@eq.edu.au.
STUDENT NON PLACEMENT FOR 2015

My child/children will not be attending Merrimac Primary next year. The new school is: ____________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________________________Parent/Guardian

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<tr>
<th>Student/s Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Nov</td>
<td>6.30pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Mon 10 Nov</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 and 11 Nov</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning Audit</td>
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<td>Tues 11 Nov</td>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
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<td>Thurs 13 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<td>15 and 16 Nov</td>
<td>G2O Summit in Brisbane</td>
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<td>Mon 17 Nov</td>
<td>7.00pm Robina High Awards Night</td>
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<td>Mon 17 Nov</td>
<td>Years 5, 6 and 7 Family Planning HRE lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Nov</td>
<td>Magic of Music Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 20 Nov</td>
<td>Prep Experience Day (2 groups)</td>
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<td>Fri 21 Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Interschool Sport</td>
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<td>Mon 1 Dec</td>
<td>5.45pm Outside School Hours Care meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 1 Dec</td>
<td>6.30 pm P&amp;C meeting</td>
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<td>Thurs 4 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Transition Day to Merrimac SHS</td>
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<td>Thurs 4 Dec</td>
<td>RE Christmas Presentations</td>
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<td>Mon 8 Dec</td>
<td>Carols By Candlelight</td>
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<td>Tues 9 Dec</td>
<td>Report Cards to go home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Transition Day to Merrimac SHS</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>Thurs 11 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 11 Dec</td>
<td>Years 6 and 7 Graduation Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>Years 6 and 7 excursion Wet n Wild</td>
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